

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD SECURES HIGHER THAN ANTICIPATED FUNDING FOR FORT COLLINS CDC LAB

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) said Tuesday that the Senate Labor, Health and Social Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee has approved a 2006 HHS appropriations bill that includes additional funding for the new Centers for Disease Control (CDC) laboratory in Fort Collins.

“The good news is that there is \$25 million in the bill for the Fort Collins lab. This proves the importance of this project to the overall work of the CDC,” said Senator Allard, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, who worked to secure the additional funds for the Fort Collins CDC Laboratory.

“I appreciate that Senator (Arlen) Specter’s appropriations subcommittee put an emphasis on this facility, and its mission,” Senator Allard said.

At the beginning of the appropriations process, Senator Allard had requested \$22.4 million in 2006 funding for the new laboratory. New information provided to the Senator by the CDC, reflecting what its final costs are likely to be, revealed a shortfall that could result in part of the new facility remaining unfinished.

“The extra funding we obtained for the new lab may go to complete a bit more of the 4th floor of the facility, or to purchase more of the equipment needed to get it up and running,” Senator Allard said. “The state-of-the-art research performed at the CDC lab is critical to our nation’s ongoing public health efforts.”

Senator Allard has met several times with CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding to discuss the construction and staffing of the new laboratory. For the 2005 fiscal year, the final CDC appropriations provided \$22 million in funding for the lab, part of more than nearly \$50 million in federal appropriations for the lab since fiscal year 2003.